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Panama is an advisor for Karen Douglas, the Chairman at the CA Energy Commission where he advises her on climate change, land use, renewable energy, transmission, green building, and biofuels policy. He serves on the City of Sacramento's Planning Commission and the County of Sacramento's Environmental Commission. He is a board member on and Vice-President of the Northern California Chapter of the United States Green Building Council and the Humboldt Bay Center for Sustainable Living. He previously worked for the California Conservation Corps on vocational environmental education and the Division of the State Architect where he ran the Sustainable Schools program. He is a graduate of Humboldt State University with a Bachelors of Science degree in Restorative Development and a Masters of Science in Community Development from UC Davis.